

and he responded to this subtle invitation by open display. He thus gives us a spontaneous interpretation of a symbol, and illustrates the fact so frequently seen in psycho-analytic work, of the displacement of psychic accent for the purposes of the conscious mind from the genital to another part or organ of the body.

Another minor detail is shown us in the incident on 27.2.25, p. 136: " At lunch Harold had said he would take his jersey off ' and ' show his braces ' ; in the afternoon Frank did so, beginning apparently accidentally, meaning to undo his trousers for the lavatory. He pulled his arm out of the sleeve, put it in. again, but then undid the neck and took the jersey off. He did all this behind the piano, then came out laughing and drew attention to what he had done." Here the showing of braces and suspenders (whose function is in fact to help hide the body) is itself felt to be a daring and defiant act—a subtle shift of meaning quite familiar in type to psycho-analysts. "If I draw attention to (or look at) what serves to hide the genital, I draw attention to the genital itself"

4. SEXUAL CURIOSITY

This section of the material deals, like the last, with genital sexuality. Very little comment is needed upon the incidents recorded. They show clearly the intense desire of small children—boys showing this more openly and boldly than girls—to see what the genitals of adults are like. Some of these incidents show the persistence with which children will pursue this desire, or the sudden way in which they will sometimes make an attempt upon an adult or another child in order to get a sight of the genitals. That it is more than

idle curiosity, more even than the primary sexual wish to see for the pleasure of seeing, is readily understood from the material of previous sections, showing the child's anxiety about excretory functions. One of the things the child wants to know about his parents is whether or not their genitals, so closely associated for him with the excretory functions, are good or bad, clean or dirty, dangerous or helpful. Again, his very wish to expose the adult's sexual organs leads him to fear that all sorts of dangers may lie in wait for him, should he succeed.